

NEWS RELEASE

Released: October 12, 2007



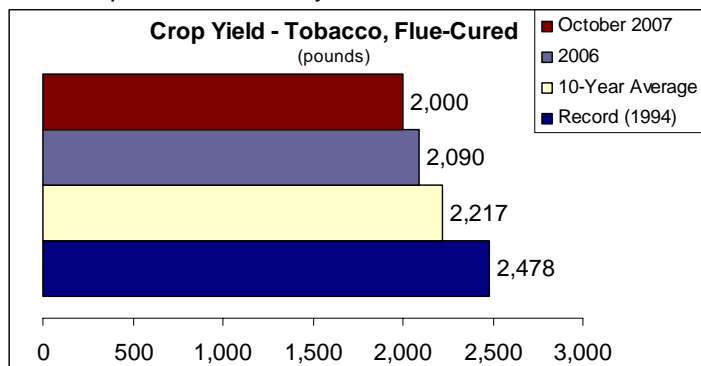
USDA, NASS
North Carolina
Field Office



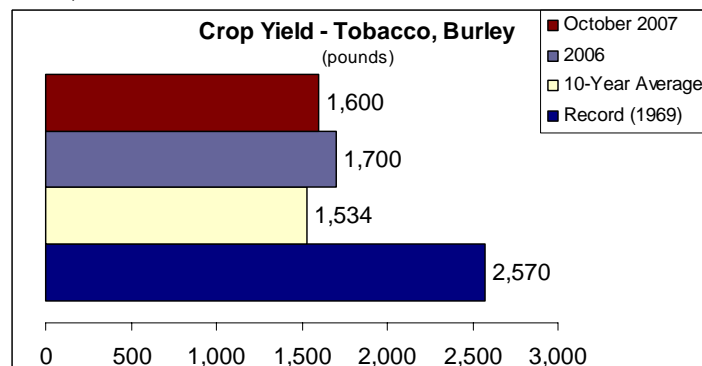
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NC CROP PRODUCTION IMPACTED BY WEATHER CONDITIONS

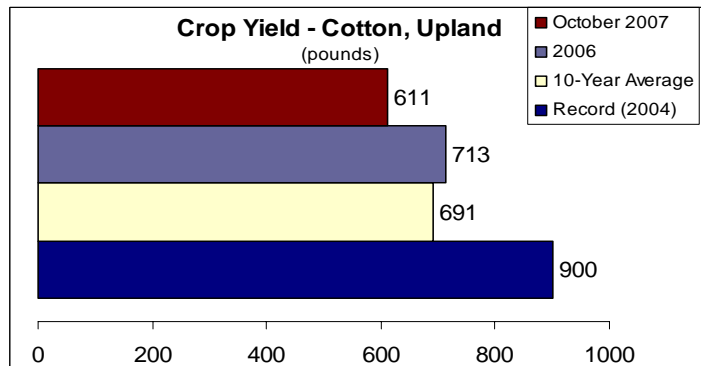
Flue-cured tobacco production is forecast at 330 million pounds, 2% above the 324 million pounds produced in 2006. Acres for harvest are estimated at 165,000, up 10,000 acres from last year. Yield per acre is forecast at 2,000 pounds, down 90 pounds from last year.



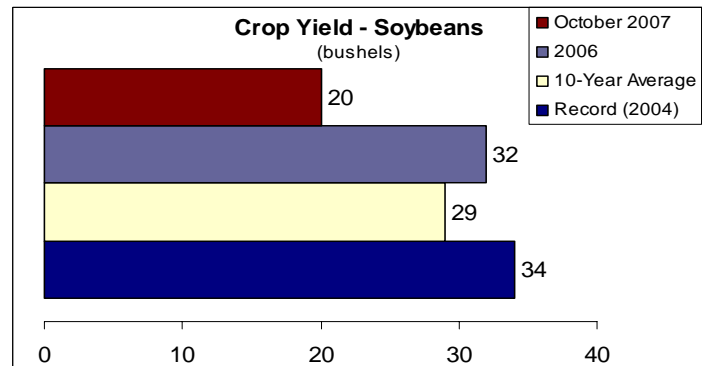
Burley tobacco production is forecast at 6.4 million pounds, down slightly from 2006 production of 6.46 million. Yield is forecast at 1,600 pounds per acre, 100 pounds less than last year's crop. Area for harvest is forecast at 4,000 acres, 200 acres more than was harvested in 2006.



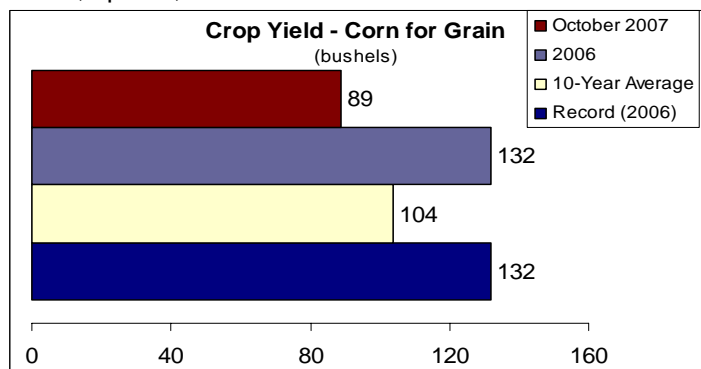
Cotton production is forecast to total 630,000 bales, unchanged from last month's forecast and down 51% from last year's production of 1.285 million bales. The yield forecast at 611 lbs per acre remained unchanged from September's forecast. Harvested acres are expected to total 495,000 compared with 865,000 acres harvested in 2006.



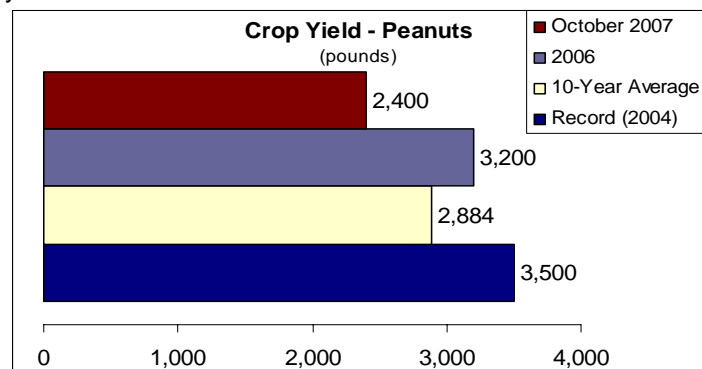
Soybean yield is forecast to average 20 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels per acre from last month's forecast and down 12 bushels from last year. Production is forecast to total 27.4 million bushels; down 37% from last year. Harvested area is projected to 1.37 million acres, unchanged from last month forecast.



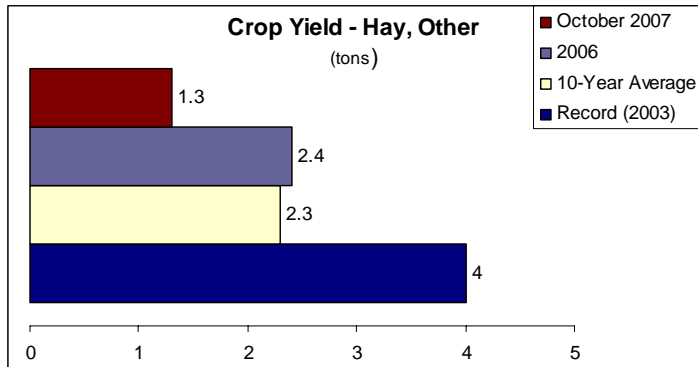
Corn for grain yield is forecast 89 bushels per acre unchanged from last month and down from last years record high of 132 bushels per acre. Production is forecast to total 91.67 million bushels; 6% less than last year. Harvested acres are unchanged from last month's forecast at 1.03 million, up 290,000 from 2006.



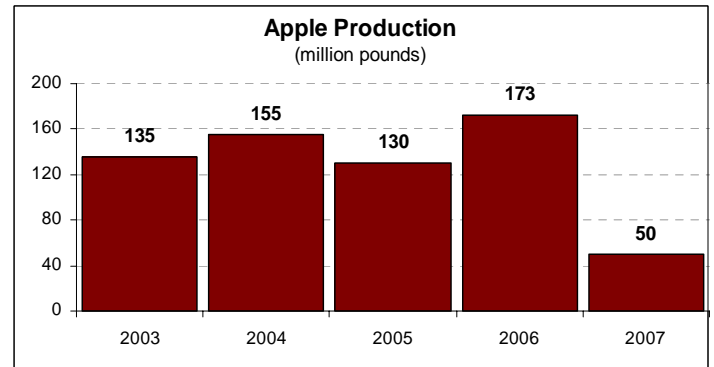
Peanut production is forecast at 220.8 million pounds, up 4% from last month and down 18% from last year's production. Harvested area is projected at 92,000 acres. Yield per acre is forecast at 2,400 pounds, up 100 pounds from last month and down 800 pounds per acre from last year.



Other hay yields are forecast at 1.3 tons per acre, down from August's forecast of 2.0 tons per acre. Production is expected to total 897 thousand tons, 45% below the 2006 tonnage.



Apple production expectations remained the same as the August forecast, 50 million pounds. The freeze in early April and the persistent drought are the main contributors.



September 2007 Crop Weather: Dry weather and above normal temperatures dominated the month of September resulting in soil moisture levels being rated mostly very poor and poor. Many crops are being negatively affected by the continued drought and above normal temperatures. By month's end, harvest progress for corn for grain, sorghum, sweetpotatoes and burley tobacco were above the five year averages. Apples, peanuts, corn for silage and hay were inline with the 5-year average and flue-cured tobacco was slightly behind the 5 year average.

U.S. flue-cured tobacco production is expected to total 456 million pounds, down less than 1 % from the previous forecast but 2 % above 2006. **U.S. burley tobacco** production is expected to total 192 million pounds, down 3 % from the September forecast and 12 % below a year ago. **U.S. corn for grain** production is forecast at 13.3 billion bushels, up slightly from last month and 26% above 2006. **U.S. cotton** production is forecast at 18.2 million 480-pound bales, up 2 % from last month but down 16 % from last year's 21.6 million bales. **U.S. soybean** production is forecast at 2.60 billion bushels, down less than 1% from the September forecast and down 19% from last year's record high. **U.S. peanut** is forecast at 3.42 billion pounds, down 1 % from last year's crop.

CROP ACRES, YIELD AND PRODUCTION, OCTOBER 1, 2007

CROPS	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA						
		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION		PERCENT CHANGE
		2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	
		Thousands				Thousands		+/-
Corn for Grain	Bu.	740	1,030	132	89	97,680	91,670	-6
Cotton: Upland ¹	Lb.	865	495	713	611	1,285	630	-51
Hay: Other	Ton	680	690	2.4	1.3	1,632	897	-45
Peanuts	Lb.	84	92	3,200	2,400	268,800	220,800	-18
Soybeans for Beans	Bu.	1,360	1,370	32	20	43,520	27,400	-37
Tobacco: Flue-cured	Lb.	155	165	2,090	2,000	323,950	330,000	+2
Tobacco: Burley	Lb.	3.8	4.0	1,700	1,600	6,460	6,400	-1
		Actual Acres						
FRUITS:								
Apples ²	Lb.	6,800	3	25,400	3	173,000	50,000	-71
Pecans	Lb.	4	4	4	4	500	600	+20
		UNITED STATES						
		Thousands				Millions		
Corn for Grain	Bu.	70,648	86,071	149.1	154.7	10,534.9	13,318.1	+26
Cotton: All ¹	Lb.	12,731.5	10,543.0	814	826	21.6	18.2	-16
Hay: All	Ton	60,807	61,789	2.33	2.39	141.7	148.0	+4
Peanuts	Lb.	1,210	1,190	2,863	2,873	3,464.3	3,419.3	-1
Soybeans for Beans	Bu.	74,602	62,818	42.7	41.4	3,188.3	2,598.0	-19
Tobacco: Flue-cured	Lb.	213.1	225.0	2,095	2,024	446.5	455.5	+2
Tobacco: Burley	Lb.	103.6	105.2	2,095	1,826	217.1	192.1	-12
FRUITS:								
Apples ²	Lb.	378,860	3	26,000	3	9,931.7	9,254.7	-7
Pecans	Lb.	4	4	4	4	206.3	319.6	+55

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. ² Total production. ³ To be released January, 2007. ⁴ Not estimated.